DECLE69.003APC PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : De Vuyst et al.

App. No : 10/516,580

Filed: January 24, 2005

For : STREPTOCOCCUS THERMOPHILUS

STRAINS PRODUCING STABLE

HIGH-MOLECULAR-MASS EXOPOLYSACCHARIDES

Examiner : Fernandez, Susan Emily

Art Unit : 1651

Conf # : 9933

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 30, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.